

APPLICATION FOR
UNITED STATES LETTERS PATENT

SPECIFICATION

TO ALL WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

Be it known that I, Craig J. Powers, a citizen of the United States of America, and resident of the State of Massachusetts, having a postal address of 738 Main Street, Waltham, Massachusetts, 02451, have invented a new and useful "**Plastic Wrap Dispensing Apparatus**", of which the following forms the specification.

"Plastic Wrap Dispensing Apparatus"

CROSS REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

This invention was the subject matter of Document Disclosure Program
Registration Number 527,651, that was filed in the United States Patent and
5 Trademark Office on March 14, 2003.

**STATEMENT REGARDING FEDERALLY SPONSORED RESEARCH
OR DEVELOPMENT**

Not applicable.

REFERENCE TO MICROFICHE APPENDIX

10 Not applicable.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

Field of the Invention

The present invention relates to the field of tape dispensers in general and in
particular to an apparatus that is adapted to engage and dispense an elongated roll of
15 plastic wrap.

Description of Related Art

As can be seen by reference to the following U.S. Patent Nos. 5,213,245; 4,102,513; 4,752,045; and 4,817,762; the prior art is replete with myriad and diverse devices designed to dispense elongated rolls of plastic wrap.

5 While all of the aforementioned prior art constructions are more than adequate for the basic purpose and function for which they have been specifically designed, they are uniformly deficient with respect to their failure to provide a simple, efficient, and practical plastic wrap dispenser apparatus having an angularly adjustable handle.

10 Unfortunately, most of the prior art constructions are either axially aligned with the hollow core of the roll of plastic wrap or employ a yoked handle that is awkward to manipulate particularly when employed to perform multiple plastic wrap covering procedures.

As a consequence of the foregoing situation, there has existed a longstanding need for a new and improved plastic wrap dispensing apparatus that simplifies the task of dispensing plastic wrap while eliminating the tendency of the trailing edges of the plastic wrap from folding over on themselves; and the provision of such a construction is a stated objective of the present invention.

BRIEF SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

20 Briefly stated, the plastic wrap dispensing apparatus that forms the basis of the present invention comprises in general an adapter unit, a housing unit and an angularly adjustable handle unit.

As will be explained in greater detail further on in the specification, the adapter unit includes a pair of end cap members adapted to frictionally engage the opposite ends of the core of the roll of plastic wrap wherein each end cap member is provided with an outwardly projecting nipple.

The housing unit in turn comprises an elongated arcuate trough the opposite ends of which are provided with end plates having an apertured portion dimensioned to rotatably receive the nipples on the end cap member.

30 Furthermore, one side of the trough is provided with a serrated severing element and the other side of the trough is adapted to be connected to the handle unit in an angularly adjustable fashion.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE SEVERAL VIEWS OF THE DRAWINGS

These and other attributes of the invention will become more clear upon a thorough study of the following description of the best mode for carrying out the invention, particularly when reviewed in conjunction with the drawings, wherein:

- 5 FIG. 1 is a perspective view of the plastic wrap dispensing apparatus that forms the basis of the present invention;
- FIG. 2 is a side elevation view of the dispensing apparatus; and,
- FIG. 3 is an exploded perspective view of the dispensing apparatus.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

- 10 As can be seen by reference to the drawings, and in particularly to FIG. 3, the plastic wrap dispensing apparatus that forms the basis of the present invention is designated generally by the reference number **10**. The apparatus **10** comprises in general an adaptor unit **11**, a housing unit **12**, and an angularly adjustable handle unit **13**. These units will now be described in seriatim fashion.

- 15 As shown in Fig. 3, the adaptor unit **11** comprises a pair of end cap members **20 20** wherein each end cap member **20** includes a disk shaped flange **21** having a short cylindrical axle stub **22** centrally disposed on one flange face and a discrete cylindrical nipple **23** centrally disposed on the opposed flange face wherein, the axle stub **22** is dimensioned to be frictionally engaged in one end of the hollow cylindrical
- 20 core **101** of a roll of plastic wrap **100**.

- In addition, the housing unit **12** comprises a housing member **30** having an elongated trough **31** having a generally semi-circular cross sectional configuration wherein, the opposite ends of the trough **31** are provided with semi-circular end panels **32** each having an arcuate raised tab element **33** projecting upwardly therefrom
- 25 wherein, the tab elements **33 33** are each provided with a discrete aperture **34** dimensioned to rotatably receive the cylindrical nipples **23 23** on the end cap members **20 20**.

- As can also be seen by reference to Fig. 3, the distal edge of the trough **31** is provided with a serrated severing element **35** and the proximal portion of the trough **31**
- 30 is provided with a generally centrally disposed bracket arm **36** having a central aperture **37** formed thereon for reasons that will be explained presently.

Turning now to Figs. 1 and 3, it can be seen that the handle unit **13** comprises an elongated generally cylindrical handle member **40** having a ribbed periphery **41** wherein, the inboard end of the handle member **40** terminates in a generally flat extension arm **42** having an aperture **43** surrounded by a radial toothed arrangement **44** that is adapted to cooperate with a complimentary toothed arrangement (not shown) that surrounds the central aperture **37** of the bracket arm **36** of the housing member in a well recognized fashion when the extension arm **42** is attached to the bracket arm **36** via conventional fastening elements **45 46**.

In operation, the user would remove the roll of plastic wrap **100** from its container and then insert the cap members **20 20** into the opposite ends of the hollow core **101**. Then, given the fact that the end panels **32** of the housing member **30** are flexible, the nipples **23** on the cap members **20 20** can be inserted through the apertures **34 34** of the housing member **30** to rotatably support the roll of plastic wrap **100** within the housing member **30**.

Furthermore, the radial toothed arrangement **44** on the handle extension arm **42** and the housing bracket arm **36** allows the handle member **40** to be angularly adjustable relative to the housing member **30** as depicted in Fig. 2.

Although only an exemplary embodiment of the invention has been described in detail above, those skilled in the art will readily appreciate that many modifications are possible without materially departing from the novel teachings and advantages of this invention. Accordingly, all such modifications are intended to be included within the scope of this invention as defined in the following claims.

Having thereby described the subject matter of the present invention, it should be apparent that many substitutions, modifications, and variations of the invention are possible in light of the above teachings. It is therefore to be understood that the invention as taught and described herein is only to be limited to the extent of the breadth and scope of the appended claims.